

# Electrical Invention Puts Pep in Jaded Actors, And They Go Out and Hand It On to the Audience

Age of Beating Nature by Way of Short Cuts Reflects Influence by Giving New Device to the Stage.

Tesla's Trick of Making Lamps Glow in Spectators' Hands Gives Hint for Use by Vaudeville House.

By GARDNER MACK.

While the relentless assurance of time and tide are well understood, the spirit of the present age seems to be to sidestep the slow graduation of each by taking short cuts from cause to effect.

The chap who gets his name in the papers with the greatest frequency and the largest type is the person who takes the job of producing results out of the hands of nature, and beats both time and tide to the accomplishment of the things which these original stand-patters in evolution have all along considered their own peculiar job.

Not satisfied to wait until natural causes move in their courses with sufficient exactness to evolve the thing wanted in the usual way, this restless soul smashes precedent and record alike in producing in a minute what the combined forces of nature probably would require years to do. The vital processes are being produced artificially all over the world. Man has simulated almost every effect of nature on a large or small scale, at a vast expense.

And while the process may be artificial, the result isn't, because the experimenter simply takes the raw materials and puts them together himself, without waiting for the slow evolution of time to introduce these elements to themselves and their future.

An Age of Beating Nature. Hence it is not entirely wrong to define the present age as an age of short cuts, and the main ambition of the people who live in it not so much to get back to as to get back at nature by beating her to a wide variety of things.

The stage has been responsible for many of these short cuts. Whether it does not actually figure in the scheme itself, it supplies inspiration for it. The drama is really a short cut to tears or laughter, as the case may be. The press agent is the most active of short cutters, which is why many people have conceived the notion that he has cut down truth to such microscopic dimensions that its extreme shortness sometimes makes it complete absence. This is maligning the press agent, however. He does not cut down truth at all. He merely is a lot of press agents who wouldn't know what you were talking about if you mentioned it.

Therefore frequently happens, when some great mind has conceived a scheme that seems defiance to a natural law and an upsetting of all theories of evolution, of matter, etc., that the average citizen declines to credit the discovery and sees it only as a "press agent yarn" without a particle of solid fact behind it.

Credulity Strained. That is why I have circled about the matter of superinduced pep for actors and actresses in so careful a manner before pointing upon it and shaking it in the face of our readers. There isn't more than one out of five persons who reads this story who will believe it and that one person will believe it more out of compliment to the writer than out of any other reason. (To beat anyone at the question, I might state that there are actually five people in this town who make a practice of reading this stuff, too, consequently our prophecies are correct.) There used to be a postal last Monday that was tired of it and intended to get his recreation in the future from the Congressional Record.

The superinduced pep proposition is the very latest application of a theory of electric rejuvenation that was discovered some years ago by Nikola Tesla and applied in a variety of ways.

The idea is that many of the forces of life are an electrical nature and that the greatest stimulant to action in the world is electricity. One has only to watch the antics of a comparatively sedate person striving to get rid of the metal handles of a galvanic battery to prove this. Electricity is a concentrated form when collected by the dynamo or whatever other electric apparatus is used to produce the result.

If a person has lost his sense of humor or the sense of things his physician usually prescribes a trip to the country, where the ozone is particularly oxygen and the business of getting outdoors can be carried on without danger of outside interference. The sick person gathers bodily strength and mental exhilaration at the same time by breathing the fresh air and taking into his system the food. The air and the food contain all sorts of chemical elements, which, when united with the chemical elements of the body, bring about the changes that are necessary. But only a small quantity of each is taken into the system.

Showman Blazes Way.

Now this is where the short cut proposition comes in. Nikola Tesla years ago devised a form of electric apparatus which produced what was termed a high frequency electric current. With this current thousands of volts of electricity could be put to use to course through the body of a person without harm or result.

People with the showman instinct got hold of the apparatus and made lots of capital (and for that matter, flitting themselves) out of the electricity that in-mandant lamps would glow when held in their hands or between their teeth and all sorts of other weird uncanny things were done.

Exhibitions of what these original showmen claimed were freaks of nature naturally excited the curiosity of physicians, and when the subjects were examined it was found



that after every exhibition they were highly exhilarated—not in an artificial sense, but actually and wholesomely enlivened. The manner in which the ordinary commercial current was converted into a high frequency current of tremendous voltage was discovered by the doctors, and apparatus was devised for utilizing the current in medical practice in a legitimate way.

You see, nobody knows anything about electricity in a particular way. There are a lot of guesses flying around through curiosity worded and absolutely unintelligible books, but nobody really knows what electricity is, except that results observed by its application are very like results that are also obtained from natural evolution. It is, therefore, reasonable to suppose that electricity contains the elements of nature that go to revitalize the human being when he is fagged out. It has been proved that the sense of feeling can be restored by electricity when it has passed beyond the power of the most wonderful drugs.

So the experimenters with the high frequency current in medicine soon found that it was a great thing to use in various ailments. The restored shattered nerves and gave the tired business man that renewal of strength and energy which he sought in many more harmful forms. Perhaps you don't know it, but the tired business man is the John Doe of the theatrical business. Every thing that is done on the stage—or most of the things that are done there—almost as worn out physically as her songs were musically and her dances so far as grace was concerned.

## SOME LEFT-OVERS FOR THE THEATER IDLERS

By GARDNER MACK.

If an exception to prove his rule were needed by the wise ancient who first discovered the peculiar standing a prophet has in his own country, while honors are being heaped upon him by alien peoples Richard Buhler can supply it without batting an eye. That is only one of the many surprising things this young Washington actor has accomplished in a career beset with difficulties, but it is the latest and most astonishing in the list. Mr. Buhler has retired from the cast of the Poli Company. He has been ordered by his physician to take a rest of a surprisingly wide range of parts. He has demonstrated the possession of the highest form of art—the faculty of fitting himself to the many difficult roles assigned, rather than fitting the roles to his personality. Any ordinary actor can make a character of himself, but it takes an artist to completely cover himself with a character. Mr. Buhler has done this repeatedly, and his going away, even though it be for a brief and well-earned vacation, is a matter of sincere regret to a much wider circle of friends than he can appreciate.

There comes to the Poli ranks in the leading man's place an actor of well-known ability and a most likeable personality in the person of Carl Brickert. For three years past he has been leading man in David Belasco's production of "The Girl of the Golden West." So well did he acquit himself that he has received many offers of excellent parts in forthcoming productions, but he chose the stock branch of the business, and rapidly forged to the front as a leading man. In this capacity he served in Omaha, Louisville, Kansas City, and many other cities. He was associated with Director Robert Wayne, of the Poli Players, when Wayne was in Hattiesburg, Miss., and it was O'Neil, he made a big name for himself in the theatrical world, and it was his performance in this capacity that gave him his first introduction to the Poli organization.

Excepting only the job of maid of all work in a family of six small children whose parents have married late in life, the occupation I have met en-

getting his renewal of energy from a swiftness instead of sideboard and the bellboard. It was necessary for the stage to do something. And that was his.

Mortimer Norden is the chap who has done the stunt. Mortimer is not an actor, even if his name does sound like it. He is a stage dresser, and he has been in the business for some time. He is a stage dresser, and he has been in the business for some time. He is a stage dresser, and he has been in the business for some time.

There had been talk among the stage hands that this particular act would be back washing dishes before the end of the week. Mortimer invited the lady into his newly acquired room and turned on the current. The lady thought she was simply talking to a nice man who became more and more interesting the more he was talked to. She was torn from her side to go on and on, and she was torn from her side to go on and on, and she was torn from her side to go on and on.

This song and dance artist bounced out on the stage like she was on springs. She went through her songs in such a way that the audience began to applaud the verses instead of waiting for the end of the chorus. Her dances were given with a finish and a grace that brought the house to its feet, and her fifteen minutes was strung out to twenty-five, so busy was she taking encores and doing over again the very things that had put audiences to sleep the day before.

When she was finished Mortimer explained his device. It was simply the old high-frequency stuff. He told the manager of the theater that he put into that dressing room fifteen minutes before their turn came to go on the stage qualified to register knockouts with every turn.

All this sounds like a moving picture scenario—but it isn't. It's an actual fact and not only is it an actual fact but what is more, to the point—it's a plausible and easily explainable fact. The action of the high frequency current is stimulating as nothing else on earth can stimulate, and the electrician's experiment in the New York vaudeville house is so successful that orders have gone forth for every actor and actress appearing there who seems the least bit out of color, to spend a few minutes in the room getting electrified before they go out and try to electrify the audience.

The benefit on the audience is almost as great as the benefit on the actor. It is the intention of the management to give the matter a thorough test, and if all its promises of good are proved, similar dressing rooms will be installed in a large string of vaudeville houses which the same concern owns.

Carl Brickert

POLI'S

MARY PICKFORD

CRANDALL'S

Frisco Editor's Wife

Writes Washington Play

A Washington play by Mrs. Cora Bag-

gery Older, wife of Fremont Older, editor of the San Francisco Bulletin, is to be given its premier by the Alcazar stock company in San Francisco within the next few weeks.

Mrs. Older is a native of New York, and is also very well known to the literary and theatrical world here. The play deals with a Washington theme, and most of the scenes are laid in the city.

The play is called "A Woman's Place," and it is a dramatic and powerful story of a woman's struggle for independence and self-respect.

The play is a masterpiece of dramatic art, and it is a pity that it is not being given a wider audience.

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## AT CAPITAL THEATERS THIS WEEK



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## POLI'S

Carl Brickert will make his first appearance at the head of the company tomorrow afternoon in the role of Jules Beaubien in Eugene Walter's dramatization of the life of the Hudson Bay country of Canada, "The Wolf." The play was produced here originally at the Belasco Theater by a cast that included William Courtenay, John Quest, Walter Hale and John Findley. From the box office standpoint, "The Wolf" is a surprise. It is a comedy, a play, it has had longer runs in this country and in England than any other play. The East End, or "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine," the play tells the story of a young French Canadian who exacts the vengeance of his wife and a happy ending for all, but the aunt is dislocated in the action of the piece. A. H. Van Buren will appear as Smith, and Dorothy Bernard as Mrs. Smith. The governor of the ladies will be especially beautiful and in keeping with the attractive stage settings which have been provided by Stage Director Ritchie in conjunction with Charles Squires.

## COSMOS

An old favorite in a new dress, the Metropolitan Minstrels, with a new cast and many new features, will head the Cosmos Theater bill the first half of the week. Benny Franklin and the Three Tots, an aggregation of pleasing singers and dancers, will be another striking number with the Kleins, Abbe and Nicholson, who have made a great hit at the Nixon Theater, will come along with a surprise in music and comedy which delighted Baltimoreans. A clever song-and-dance special of the popular "The Bunnies" will be given by the Cowan's posing dogs will be seen for the last time, and King Rex will give an extraordinary exhibition of dancing and acrobatics on roller skates. The Hearst-Selig pictures in motion of the big news events of the world will head the film features, Wednesday and Friday evenings the country store will be an added attraction. While the Nationals are away their games will be reproduced daily.

## CONCERTS

Kela Beler's "Italian Schauspieler Overture," Myddleton's characteristic, "By the Swanee River," a selection from Donizetti's "L'Elisir d'Amour," and "The Merry Widow" will be the program for the orchestra under the direction of Arthur Maxwell at the Cosmos Theater concert today from 3 to 10:30 p. m. Besides the orchestral program, the attractions of the last half of the week will appear with new specialties. An interesting program of entertainment.

## Chevy Chase Lake

Those who journey to Chevy Chase Lake this evening will be rewarded by an especially selected program by the Marine Band. Twelve selections, including the ever-popular "Moon Moths," will make up the concert. The band stand atop a breezy hill and it is always cool, no matter how hot the weather has been during the day. The program, a band concert, the professional dancers, and finally general dancing.

## COMING PLAYS

A comedy with a particular appeal to a Washington audience is announced for production a week from tomorrow night by the Columbia Players. It is "The Senator and the Playwright," by Sydney Rosenfeld, that served to wear William H. Crane from his dramatic sallies to Stuart Robinson following the phenomenal success of the two stars in "The Henrietta." Mr. Crane presented the piece to a New York audience for the first time January 1, 1914, and for many years thereafter its success throughout the country was phenomenal. Dealing with a Washington subject, as it does, and with the scenes laid in this city, it has always exercised a peculiar fascination for the people of this city.

"The Man from Mexico," a comedy in three acts by H. Du Souchet, will be revived next week by the Poli Players, with Carl Brickert in the role created by William H. Crane. The story is built on the duplicity of Benjamin Fitzhugh, who explains to his faithful servant that he is a business trip to Mexico to see his father-in-law. The man is a scoundrel, and is arrested. The fine imposed upon him at court is excessive, but Fitzhugh goes to jail rather than submit to what he brands an extortion. His wife is a member of a committee of women that visit the jail. Naturally, fate wills that she visit the place in which her husband is incarcerated, and the very morning he begins work as a janitor in the warden's office.

## Here's Gaby's Real Name!

The Vienna Ambatslat is publishing an official demand on Hedwig Nawratle to pay debts growing out of the purchase of valuable jewelry. Hedwig Nawratle is none other than Miss Gaby Deslys, the variety singer and dancer, who is now in London.

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## COLUMBIA

Carrie Thatcher will come into much merited prominence at the Columbia Theater this week where she will be seen in the role of the Secretary of the Ladies' Union in George H. Bradburn's three act farce, "Why Smith Left Home," which is to be presented by the Columbia Players. The piece deals with the comedy of a young married couple whose early home life is much perturbed by the incessant prodding of visitors ending with an attempt of the bride's who endeavor to run not only the entire house, but everyone in it as well. How Smith's efforts to stem their ruthless tyranny results in complications of the most serious nature for him before it eventuates in reconciliation with his wife and a happy ending for all, but the aunt is dislocated in the action of the piece. A. H. Van Buren will appear as Smith, and Dorothy Bernard as Mrs. Smith. The governor of the ladies will be especially beautiful and in keeping with the attractive stage settings which have been provided by Stage Director Ritchie in conjunction with Charles Squires.

## CRANDALL'S

The first appearance in Washington of Francis X. Bushman, in the part for which 2,000,000 American men and women selected him to play in "One Wonderful Night," will be at Crandall's Theater next Wednesday and Thursday. Hundreds of inquiries have been received as to where and when his picture would be produced, and the interest in it is probably greater than in any photoplay that has been made recently. The selection of Bushman for the part over all the other photoplays is an extraordinary feat, considering the popularity of this star beyond question. For that reason this week might be called an all star week at Crandall's, for the two most popular figures in the moving picture world will be featured—Bushman and Mary Pickford. Today's feature and comedy, "A Letter from Home," Monday and Tuesday, Mary Pickford in "The Old Actor," Wednesday and Thursday, "The Big Bushman special," "One Wonderful Night," Friday brings John Bunny in "The Bunnies" and on Saturday Mary Pickford again in "The Englishman and the Girl." Besides these there are the first run photograph and other feature films with the Royal Green's Orchestra, and a cool, well-ventilated auditorium to enjoy them all.

## GLEN ECHO

The plans for the dance competition to be held Tuesday, August 4, and Thursday, August 6, at Glen Echo, have been launched with a boom. The elimination contest will be held on Tuesday evening, and the finals on Thursday night. Only the hesitation and the fish walk will be danced. For the best lady dancer the prize will be a diamond bracelet, and for the best gentleman the prize will be a diamond watch. The winner among the men will get a solid gold watch. This afternoon and tonight the Glen Echo will be the scene of the Soldiers' Home Band, with John S. M. Zimmerman leading the baton. An orchestra of 25 men will play the popular songs of the day. The Glen Echo will be free for everybody. The pay-as-you-go plan will be in effect. The car fare from 2 to 4, and on the gravity railway from 4 to 5.

## Colonial Beach

With the coming of the vacation season many Washingtonians seeking rest and recreation are making the trip to Colonial Beach. The popular resort is situated on the Potomac about seventy miles from Washington, and is reached by a short trip to the Chesapeake bay to make the salt water bathing excellent. The steamer St. Johns is now maintaining a daily schedule, excepting Mondays, leaving at 9 a. m. from the Seventh street wharf, and returning on Saturdays. A large dining pavilion is located over the water, which has a well-directed orchestra. On Mondays the St. Johns makes a forty-mile moonlight trip to Indian Head and return.

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